

## II. Mississippi Demographic Profile

This section provides descriptive and statistical information on the demographic characteristics of Mississippi according to the 2000 Census and 2003 population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Population

According to the 2003 Census Estimate, Mississippi had 2,881,283 people dispersed in 82 counties and 296 incorporated cities, towns, and villages. While 50.3 percent of the people live in one of the incorporated municipalities, 63.1 percent live in areas classified as rural by the Census Bureau. Nineteen percent of the people live in a city with a population of 25,000 or more, and only 34.9 percent in a city of 10,000 or more. The state has four metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) completely within its borders: the Gulfport-Biloxi (Hancock, Harrison, and Stone counties); Pascagoula (Jackson and George counties); Jackson area (Hinds, Madison, Copiah, Rankin and Simpson counties); and the Hattiesburg area (Forrest, Lamar, and Perry counties). In addition, four Mississippi counties (DeSoto, Marshall, Tunica, and Tate) are included in the Memphis, Tennessee MSA.

The 2003 Census Estimate reports that the state's gender composition was 48.5 percent male and 51.5 percent female. The racial composition was 61.2 percent white, 36.9 percent black, and 1.8 percent other races. Persons aged 65 or older made up 12.1 percent of the population. These data are reflected in the following table.

Table II-1  
Population by Gender and Race  
2003

<b>2003 Census Estimate: 2,881,283</b>					
<b>Whites</b>	<b>1,763,609</b>	<b>Blacks</b>	<b>1,064,477</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>53,197</b>
Males	868,808	Males	501,507	Males	25,901
Females	894,801	Females	562,970	Females	27,296
<b>Estimated Population Over Age 65: 349,407</b>					
<b>Whites</b>	<b>259,716</b>	<b>Blacks</b>	<b>86,119</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>3,572</b>
Males	106,526	Males	32,271	Males	1,493
Females	153,190	Females	53,848	Females	2,079

### Housing

The 2000 Census reported 1,161,953 housing units in Mississippi and an average occupancy of 2.45 persons per unit. By contrast, in 1990 there were 1,010,423 housing units, with an average occupancy of 2.55 persons. The average household size in 2000 was 2.63 persons; the average family size 3.14. Although there has been marked improvement in income, education, and housing, Mississippi remains well below the national average in these areas.

Table II-2  
**Mississippi Non-Agricultural Employment and Job Openings**  
**By Employment Sector**  
 1998 to 2008

<b>Employment Sector</b>	<b>Employment</b>		<b>Change 1998 - 2008</b>		<b>Average Annual Job Openings 1998 - 2008</b>		
	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Absolute</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>Separation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	66,320	63,460	(2,860)	(4.3)	0	1,235	1,235
Private Households	2,890	4,010	1,120	38.8	110	35	145
Mining	6,070	3,900	(2,170)	(35.7)	0	135	135
Construction	53,110	63,310	10,200	19.2	1,020	1,335	2,355
Manufacturing	205,770	213,680	7,910	3.8	800	4,525	5,325
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities	53,350	61,190	7,840	14.7	785	1,135	1,920
Wholesale Trade	47,040	55,090	8,050	17.1	810	1,040	1,850
Retail Trade	196,990	222,460	25,470	12.9	2,555	6,465	9,020
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	39,650	40,930	1,280	3.2	125	900	1,025
Services <sup>1</sup>	444,700	512,140	67,440	15.2	6,760	9,600	16,360
Government	122,330	125,230	2,900	2.4	285	2,750	3,035
<b>Total Non-Agriculture</b>	<b>1,238,220</b>	<b>1,365,400</b>	<b>127,180</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>13,250</b>	<b>29,155</b>	<b>42,405</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Local and State Government, Education, and Hospital Employment.

Source: Mississippi Statewide and Selected Sub-State Areas Employment and Job Openings, 1998-2008, August 2000.

## Employment

Employment increased from 1,229,000 in 2003 to 1,248,100 in 2004 (annual average), a 1.6 percent increase, according to the Mississippi Department Employment Security. This figure includes all Mississippi residents who are employed, whether the employment is within Mississippi or out-of-state. The average civilian labor force, which includes all residents of the state who are working or seeking employment, was 1,330,200 in 2004. An average of 82,100 Mississippi residents was seeking employment during the year, for an average unemployment rate of 6.2 percent. The 2004 rate was near 2003's average of 6.3 percent.

Twenty-two counties reported double digit unemployment in December 2004, a decrease from 18 the prior year. Twenty-five counties exceeded the statewide rate of 5.9 for the month. Sharkey County reported the highest unemployment rate of 19.5, followed by Issaquena at 18.0, Jefferson at 17.7, Holmes at 15.4 percent, and Humphreys at 15.3 percent. Lamar County had the lowest rate at 2.5 percent, followed by Rankin at 2.9 percent, Oktibbeha at 3.1 percent, Jones at 3.3, and Pearl River at 3.4 percent.

## Income

Mississippi ranked 49<sup>th</sup> among the states in per capita income and 48<sup>th</sup> in median family income, according to the 2000 Census. In 1999, the per capita income was \$16,257, while the national average was \$21,690. The median family income was \$39,266, more than \$10,000 less than the \$49,507 for the United States. Table II-3 shows additional information on poverty for individuals and families.

## Education

According to the 2000 Census, high school graduation rates in Mississippi rose to 74.3 percent in 2000, from 64.3 percent in 1990, a gain of ten points, although the state is below the national average of 81.6 percent. Approximately 18.6 percent of Mississippians over 25 years of age hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 25.1 percent for the United States.

Table II-3  
**Persons and Families by Poverty Status**  
**Mississippi and United States**  
1999, 1989, and 1979

Area	Number of Families Below Poverty Level (in thousands)			Percent Below Poverty Level					
				Persons			Families		
	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979
<b>United States</b>	6,828	6,488	5,646	12.5	13.1	12.5	9.6	10.0	9.6
<b>Mississippi</b>	104	137	120	18.2	25.2	23.9	14.3	20.2	18.7

Source: Population Census, Bureau of the Census